

WT Energy Committee

Minutes

8.10.21

Howes House outside, 9:30 am start

Approved 9.14.21

Present: Richard Andre, Nicola Blake, Ron Dagostino, Geoff Freeman, Sue Hruby, Kate Warner. (*absent Rebekah Thomson*)

Guests: Alexandra Pratt, Kathy Logue

1. **Minutes** of 6/22/2021 approved with Sue Hruby abstaining.

2. **Discussion of Library Solar/Battery project via CVEC Round 6.**

Committee voted to go ahead with Round 6 and do solar and batteries for both Connected Solutions and resilience.

Richard Andre and Ron Dagostino recused themselves from the vote.

Committee wants to know process for opting out of a particular Connected Solutions event should a hurricane be on the horizon but generally feel that we want to be an active part of Connected Solutions and we can always use the library generator for power in a power failure should the battery need time to be recharged by the solar array.

Solar Array size— It is unknown what size it can be for 2 reasons.

1) Cadmus' estimation was far lower than that of the CLEAR report. The CLEAR estimate of 50-65 kW depending on the efficiency of module used was deemed yesterday to be the better number. This means the estimated annual production was off in the Cadmus report by about half.

2) Cadmus also put modules on the west-facing roof whereas CLEAR only did the south-facing roof because of Historic District considerations.

It was voted that we would like to have the west-facing roof also considered as an add-alternate. *I have talked to Sean Conley of the HDC and he said they generally approve that kind of thing but we would need to have a public hearing before we could be certain of that. Alexandra will be discussing this with her Library Trustees this month.*

Battery size— Because our generation will be much more than Cadmus had estimated, the Committee assumes that the economics of the project will allow for a larger battery bank. We assume the developers will therefore propose something larger than what Cadmus had designated.

Off-taker for extra kWh generated.

Geoff Freeman acknowledged that the Airport has said they will be a recipient of extra kWh. It was also brought up at the meeting that it is possible that there are Town buildings not yet covered under the landfill solar generation. Highway Department? If so, we would ask that those accounts be used first to benefit the Town the most.

3. Discussion of Select Board team to manage climate related decisions in the Town.

4. Discussion of a questionnaire to be posted on the Town website gauging people's interest and concerns with technologies that will help us make the transition to 100% electric. Vineyard Power has just done a similar one and sent it out to their members.

Ron will review the one Kate laid out and make additions and changes. Could add in a line for Town and ask people from more than WT fill it out.

Discussion about **how to get the word out** about the questionnaire.

Suggested: town columns, ICAN, radio stations?

Kathy offered that a 1/3 page announcement about it could go out with the tax bills at the end of September. Would reach 2500-3000 properties. Wording needs to be approved by Select Board. We would pay for the printing. Needs to be information, not advocacy/political.

Richard will write up the 1/3 page piece

5. 5 year plan

Committee members were asked to look over the 5 year plan list of ideas and see where they would like to focus their energies and help us move forward. Perhaps people will work in pairs. **To be discussed at next meeting.**

6. Other miscellaneous topics

- Geoff reported that the CLC regional meeting was a mega meeting. He felt there was nothing covered that WT was not already doing.
- Kate reported on recent VSEC meeting. Most of the discussion was about the energy group that is to be a part of the MVC climate action plan work: what their focus should be.
- Rebekah has taken a part-time job and has suggested that she could be replaced on our committee. Members were asked to think of possible people who might serve.
- Sue is working on a job description for a climate coordinator position. Will ask the group for input (but not Kate)
- Ron has been making his house 100% electric and has experiences to share about that.

- Kathy offered that we could also send out a mailing about EVs with the early February excise tax mailing and that it could be one page. It could have information and links to information. It would reach 4500 vehicle owners.
- Geoff mentioned that at the Airport, they have an engineering company on call to help them when they need to set up RFPs or find qualified engineers for projects. Not sure if it would apply to WT but Kathy was interested to learn more.
- Nicola will work on a possible sign encouraging people to charge at the Library, not Town Hall and also on a sign by State Road that says we have a Chargepoint charger available at the Library site.

Meeting adjourned 10:45.

Next meeting is Tuesday Sept 14, 8:30 am